



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,161	03/09/2004	John Fred Davis	END920030160US1	3025
26502	7590	06/23/2008		
IBM CORPORATION IPLAW SHCB/40-3 1701 NORTH STREET ENDICOTT, NY 13760			EXAMINER JAKOVAC, RYAN J	
			ART UNIT 2145	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/23/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,161

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Examiner

RYAN J. JAKOVAC

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/09/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 7 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims recite "...reading the source IP address from a header of the unwanted." Examiner suggests the following change: "...reading the source IP address from a header of the unwanted email." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2004/0177120 to Kirsch in view of Spamhaus.

Regarding claim 1, 9, 17, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method of blocking unwanted e-mails, said method comprising the steps of: identifying an e-mail as unwanted (Kirsch, paragraph [0025], unwanted email messages are identified.);

determining a source IP address of the unwanted e-mail (Kirsch, paragraph [0036], IP address determined. See also, fig. 3.). Kirsch does not expressly disclose determining other source IP addresses owned or registered by an owner or registrant of the source IP address of said unwanted e-mail. Kirsch does disclose subsequently blocking e-mails from said source IP address and said other IP addresses (Kirsch, paragraph [0025], unwanted emails are blocked.).

However, Spamhaus discloses determining other source IP addresses owned or registered by an owner or registrant of the source IP address of said unwanted e-mail (Spamhaus, The Spamhaus Block List ("SBL") is a list of IP addresses compiled by the same team that maintains the ROKSO database, broadcast in realtime to independent DNS-based 'Blocklist' systems. All IPs on the SBL belong to known spammers, spam gangs, or spam support services. The SBL includes IPs from both the ROKSO database and IPs of spam services listed in the Spamhaus database.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine determining other source IP addresses owned or registered by an owner or registrant of the source IP address of said unwanted e-mail as taught by Spamhaus with the method of Kirsch in order to be able to refuse email from known spammers (Spamhaus, The Spamhaus Block List ("SBL") can be used by most modern Mail Servers to refuse email from known spammers and spam support services.).

Regarding claim 2, 10, 18, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of determining other source IP addresses owned or registered by an owner or registrant of the source IP address of said unwanted e-mail comprises

the step of determining an owner or registrant of said source IP address of said unwanted e-mail (Spamhaus, SBL listings list known spammers and their associated IP addresses.).

Regarding claim 3, 11, 19, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the step of determining other source IP addresses owned or registered by an owner or registrant of the source IP address of said unwanted e-mail is performed by querying an entity that manages registration of IP addresses (Kirsch, fig. 2, examination of whitelist and blacklist.).

Regarding claim 4, 12, 20, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said entity is Internet Assigned Number Authority (Spamhaus, The SBL includes IPs from both the ROKSO database and IPs of spam services listed in the Spamhaus database.).

Regarding claim 5, 13, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying an e-mail as unwanted comprises the step of identifying an e-mail which is attempted to be sent to multiple recipients where the e-mail contains the same or substantially the same text (Kirsch, paragraph [0003], emails filtered by words that appear in the message. See also paragraph [0025], [0032], and fig. 4a and 4b.).

Regarding claim 6, 14, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying an e-mail as unwanted comprises the step of

identifying an e-mail which is attempted to be sent to multiple recipients where the e-mail contains the same or substantially the same subject line (Kirsch, paragraph [0003], emails filtered by subject line.).

Regarding claim 7, 15, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of determining a source IP address of the unwanted e-mail comprises the step of reading the source IP address from a header of the unwanted (Kirsch, paragraph [0003], IP address from header used to filter message.).

Regarding claim 8, 16, The combination of Kirsch and Spamhaus teaches a method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of subsequently blocking e-mails from said source IP address and said other IP addresses comprises the step of identifying said e-mails from said source IP address and said other IP addresses at a firewall or router, and then preventing them from passing through to a mail server(s) for their intended recipients (Kirsch, paragraph [0025], unwanted emails are blocked.).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RYAN J. JAKOVAC whose telephone number is (571)270-5003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RJ

/Jason D Cardone/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145